

REMARKS

Claims 6-25 are pending and remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Vu.

In the Office Action of Sep. 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006, the Examiner asked for an explicit identification of claim limitations believed allowable over the Vu reference. By way of this Amendment, the function of the virtual hosts and the configurator interface have been clarified in two respects, and it is believed that these limitations are allowable over Vu.

First, the independent claims have been amended to clarify that the gateway device as claimed is a multi-homing device by virtue of having a set of virtual hosts. The independent claims have been amended to indicate that each of the individual virtual hosts provide a “distinct home through which a connection may be made”, thereby enabling the gateway device to be a multi-homing gateway device. As will be appreciated, the ability to manage multiple homes with a single gateway device represents is a distinct advantage over the prior art, especially at the time of the filing of the parent application in 1996. As the Vu reference is a single home device and can not host multiple homes as presently claimed, it is respectfully submitted that the independent claims are allowable for this reason alone.

Additionally, the independent claims have been amended to clarify the operation of the web configurator. The independent claims now recite that the web configurator is capable of configuring a specific one of the virtual hosts. A user may select a specific home for configuration from amongst the multiple homes being managed by the gateway device through an HTML-based interface, such as any standard web browser. Thus, the

gateway device as presently claimed provides for a point-and-click interface that allows a user to remotely configure the settings of a specific home selected from all of the homes of the gateway device. The ability to perform this type of configuration using a web browser represents a significant advantage over the prior art as of 1996, especially in terms of ease-of-use and cross-platform compatibility. As the gateway device of Vu can not be configured in this manner, it is respectfully submitted that the independent claims are allowable over Vu.

As it is believed that this Amendment puts this case in a position for allowance or alternatively in a better position for appeal, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered in the record.

It is respectfully submitted that Vu does not teach or suggest a multi-homing remotely-configurable firewall as is now claimed. It is now believed that the present case is allowable over the cited art of record and reconsideration and early allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this application or this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at 775-848-5624.

Respectfully submitted,  
SIERRA PATENT GROUP, LTD.

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